

From: Carey, Curtis [Carey.Curtis@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/18/2021 10:30:30 PM
To: Hayes, Scott [Hayes.Scott@epa.gov]; Buchholz, Ken [Buchholz.Kenneth@epa.gov]; Chu, Ed [Chu.Ed@epa.gov]; Tapp, Joshua [Tapp.Joshua@epa.gov]; Hoefer, David [Hoefer.David@epa.gov]; O'Connor, Daniel [oconnor.daniel@epa.gov]; Juett, Lynn [Juett.Lynn@epa.gov]; Peterson, Mary [Peterson.Mary@epa.gov]; Cozad, David [Cozad.David@epa.gov]
CC: Albano, Emily [Albano.Emily@epa.gov]; Bryan, David [Bryan.David@epa.gov]
Subject: AWARENESS: News Coverage - EPA R7 Supports NDEE Response to Meade, NE, AltEn Ethanol Plant Spill
Attachments: 2021-02-17_NDEE-PR-EPAAssistsinResponseto-AltEn release.docx

BLUF: Closing the loop with you on the resulting news coverage of EPA's support to the Nebraska Department of Energy and Environment's response to the Meade, Nebraska, AltEn Ethanol Plant Spill this past weekend.

- EPA Region 7 OPA and the NDEE Public Information Office coordinated on our collective media posture following the spill.
- NDEE is the lead regulatory agency, with EPA providing response support and technical expertise on the cleanup and mitigation efforts.
- NDEE issued a news release noting EPA's support in the response and cleanup efforts.

[Attached] NDEE News Release - NDEE continues to assess, monitor discharge at ethanol facility – 2/17/21 - NDEE collected samples to determine if the material contains pesticides and requested support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7. The EPA was on site to assess the spill, collect additional samples, give advice on cleanup and help with mitigation efforts. Sampling results could take up to two weeks to return. <http://bit.ly/3qwVeev>

Resulting News Coverage

Omaha (NE) World Herald - Wastewater spill at Mead ethanol plant has traveled more than 4 miles downstream – 2/17/21 - A state environmental agency on Wednesday ordered an ethanol plant near Mead to immediately construct additional barriers to prevent further migration of wastewater leaking from the plant after below-zero temperatures burst pipes on a 4-million gallon digester tank. The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, in a press release, said it had also ordered AltEn to conduct hourly inspections for potential leaks from a second digester and to construct secondary containment in case of a potential failure. Samples of the leaked material have been taken to determine if it contains pesticides, officials said. The Environmental Protection Agency is also on site to assess the spill, collect additional samples and give advice on cleanup. Results from the sampling could take up to two weeks, the NDEE said. <http://bit.ly/2ZsB8pN>

Lincoln (NE) Journal-Star - Spill from troubled Mead ethanol plant traveled 4 miles in waterways, state says – 2/17/21 - The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy on Wednesday said it's continuing to monitor the release of waste material from AltEn Ethanol near Mead after a pipe burst on a 4 million-gallon digester tank late last week. Emergency responders from the EPA's Region 7 office in Lenexa, Kansas, have also collected samples and offered assistance in cleanup. <http://bit.ly/2N9nyoZ> Also Cherokee Ledger-News (Woodstock, GA), Hastings (NE) Tribune, Beatrice (NE) Daily Sun, North Platte (NE) Telegraph, Scottsbluff (NE) Star-Herald, Norfolk (NE) Daily

News, York (NE) News-Times, Fremont (NE) Tribune, Columbus (NE) Telegram, Kearney (NE) Hub, Grand Island (NE) Independent

KETV ABC Ch. 7 – State directs Mead ethanol plant to contain and clean up spill – 2/17/21 - The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) and University of Nebraska-Lincoln researchers continue to monitor the leak at the AltEn ethanol plant in Mead. A spokesperson with the NDEE reports emergency response staff have been on-site daily helping the company contain and clean up the spill. The NDEE said the spill is a mix of thin stillage and manure. With the help of the Environmental Protection Agency, they're collecting samples to determine if it contains pesticides. It could take two weeks to get those results.

WOWT Ch. 6 Omaha - Nebraska environmental authority monitors Mead ethanol facility spill – 2/17/21 - The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy is monitoring the discharge from an ethanol facility in Mead. The Environmental Protection Agency Region 7 was called to assess the spill and give cleanup advice. Sampling efforts could take two weeks to return. <http://bit.ly/37l8DZZ> Also KOLN Ch. 10/11 Lincoln NE, WOWT Ch. 6 Omaha,

The Ashland Gazette (Wahoo Newspapers) - EPA provides support to NDEE after pipe burst at ethanol plant – 2/17/21 - After a frozen pipe burst in the wee hours of the morning on Feb. 12 at AltEn, the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy requested aid from the Environmental Protection Agency Region 7 in Lenexa, Kan. "The EPA was on site to assess the spill, collect additional samples, give advice on cleanup and help with mitigation efforts," the release said. "Sampling results could take up to two weeks to return." <http://bit.ly/3pBomjo>

KFXL Ch. 51 Lincoln NE - NDEE respond to spill at Mead AltEn ethanol facility – 2/17/21 - NDEE collected samples to determine if the material contains pesticides and requested support from the Environmental Protection Agency Region 7. The agency said the EPA was on site to assess the spill, collect additional samples, give advice on cleanup and help with mitigation efforts. Sampling results could take up to two weeks to return. <https://bit.ly/3auZ3ew>

Associated Press – Wastewater Spills at Troubled Ethanol Plant Blamed on Pipe Bursts – 2/18/21 - A frozen pipe has burst at a Nebraska ethanol plant that had been ordered to close a week ago, causing a wastewater spill, environmental officials say. The spill is the latest problem at the AltEn facility. <http://bit.ly/3py0nBM> Also Des Moines Daily Record

KLKN Ch. 8 Lincoln/Kearney NE - NDEE monitoring 4.5 mile waste spill from Mead ethanol plant – 2/17/21 - The state says the plant has less than a day to construct plans to recover, transport and prevent any similar situations. <http://bit.ly/3blwY8P>

Fence Post - NDEE continues to assess, monitor discharge at ethanol facility – 2/17/21 - The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy responded to a discharge at the AltEn ethanol facility near Mead on Friday, Feb. 12. <http://bit.ly/3pswzWZ>

Curtis D. Carey, Ph.D.

Director, Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 7 – Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska & Nine Tribal Nations
(913) 551-7506
(913) 233-6308
Carey.Curtis@EPA.gov
epa.gov/region7